

is not proved, & I look with ex-
treme jealousy upon all Govt.
interference which is based on
the principle of driving the people
by force of law to religious ob-
servances. I am sorry to
differ from you on this matter,
but am quite sure you will
see that it is a question on which
all the argument is not all
on one side.

I am very truly
Yours

John Bright

W. Geo Osborne
Manchester

London

April 24. 49.

Sir/

I have your letter on the
subject of Mr. Locke's Bill, & am
sorry to say that my view of
that measure does not seem
to agree with yours. Mr. Locke
proposes not to compel the run-
ning of trains on any lines
on which trains do not now
run on Sundays, nor does he
insist on more trains being
run than are now run on
any railways. All he pro-
poses to enforce is this, that

where an Engine & Post Office
Carriage ^{are} run for the accom-
modation of the Post Office, such
Engine shall have passenger
carriages attached, in order that
all means of transit shall
not be cut off to the population
on Sundays. Now I confess
that I approve of this proposi-
tion - it appears to me to be
demanded by a just considera-
tion of the civil rights of the
people, & that no man can
feel his conscience aggrieved
who is not compelled to travel
by these trains on Sundays.

I have no sympathy with those
scruples of conscience which satisfy
themselves, or can only be satisfied
by imposing restrictions on others.
They who disapprove will not
travel - they who do not, will
not be fettered by the scruples
of others. As to the Directors of
these lines - it is difficult to see
how they can innocently run the
Engine & Post Office vans, & be
guilty if another carriage be
attached in which passengers
are allowed to travel.

I am for liberty in all things
where the necessity of restriction

48 **Bright (John, 1811-1889)** AUTOGRAPH LETTER signed to George Osborne (co-author of the railway guides ?) from London April 24.[18]49. 4 *pages*, 8vo £25

An interesting letter on the subject of Sunday passenger services. These were forbidden, while the Post Office was free to run mail. Osborne was seeking Bright's support for a Bill by Joseph Locke to enable a passenger coach to be attached to every mail train. Bright says that while he applauds the Bill, it does not go far enough to secure the right of people to travel as on any other day. "... I look with extreme jealousy upon all Govt. interference which is based on the principle of driving the people by force of law to religious observances."

How 72

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